

REMARKS

Claims 5-39 are pending, with claims 5, 10, 13, 18, 23, 29 and 34 being independent. Claims 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 18, 19, 23, 24, 29, 30, 34 and 35 have been amended. In particular, claims 5, 10, 13, 18, 23, 29 and 34 have been amended for clarity and to recite that the voltage changer changes a corrected potential applied to the EL element, as set forth in the application at page 7, lines 13-19; claims 7, 14, 19, 24, 30, 35 have been amended for consistency with the claims from which they depend; and claim 8 has been amended to recite that the EL element comprises an organic material or an inorganic material, as set forth in the application at page 19, line 22 to page 20, line 16. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 5, 7-10, 12-15, 17-20, 22-26, 28-31, 33-37 and 39 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,265,833) in view of Ikeda (U.S. Patent No. 5,714,968).

With respect to claim 5 and its dependent claims, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because neither Kim, Ikeda nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests "a voltage changer for changing a corrected potential applied to the EL element based on said correction signal," as recited in claim 5. In particular, while the rejection indicates that a resistance component of a common electrode 34 of Ikeda (which is connected to the EL element 20, 21) corresponds to the recited voltage changer, the common electrode 34 does not serve to change a potential of the EL element 20, 21. Rather, a potential applied to the EL element (20, or 21) is held constant without changing the potential, since Ikeda discloses, at col. 9, lines 34-47, that the potential at the common electrode is held constant regardless of the current values at the EL elements 20 and 21. Moreover, the rejection acknowledges that Kim does not describe or suggest the recited voltage changer electrically connected to the EL element. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Each of amended independent claims 10, 13, 18, 23, 29 and 34 recites a voltage changer similar to that of claim 5. In particular, each of claims 10, 13, 29 and 34 recites that the voltage changer changes a potential applied to an electrode of an EL element based on an information signal of an environment, and each of claims 18 and 23 recites that a corrected potential applied

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to an electrode of an EL element is changed by the voltage changer. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims, and their dependent claims, also should be withdrawn for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 5.

Dependent claims 6, 11, 16, 21, 27, 32 and 38 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Ikeda and Poulton (U.S. Patent No. 5,702,323). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Poulton does not remedy the failure of Kim and Ikeda to describe or suggest the subject matter of the independent claims.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The amount of \$180 in payment of the information disclosure statement fee under §1.17(p) is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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